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WORLD HOG NUMBERS IN 1956 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1957

World hog numbers continued to increase in 1956, setting a new record high of 385 million head. This was about 1 percent higher than 1955 and 31 percent above prewar 1936-40.

HOGS: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1956 and 1957

Continent or area	Average		1956 1/	1957 1/	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1946-50			1957	1957
					1936-40	1956
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North America..	61,400	74,500	74,400	71,400	+16	-4
Europe	76,500	59,300	95,900	96,800	+28	+1
U.S.S.R.	32,300	13,000	2/52,100	2/56,400	—	+8
Asia	86,400	58,400	104,200	106,300	+23	+2
South America..	31,300	33,900	47,900	48,400	+55	+1
Africa	3,400	3,900	3,900	3,800	+12	-3
Oceania	2,100	2,000	2,100	2,100	—	—
Total	293,400	245,000	380,500	385,200	+31	+1

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimates for October of preceding year; data are not comparable with earlier figures, which are 5-year averages for January 1.

World pork output in 1957 will probably be about the same as a year earlier. Hog numbers at the end of 1957 and pork output in 1958 will depend largely upon the number of pigs farrowed in 1957. There are indications that hog numbers on farms will continue their steady rise. Ample feed supplies and other conditions seem favorable to a further increase in hog production in Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R., and South America. Farrowings may also rise during 1957 in Canada, Mexico, Cuba, and Brazil.

During 1956, hog numbers rose 2 percent in Asia, and 1 percent in Europe and South America. The U.S.S.R. claims an increase of 8 percent. Little change occurred in numbers in Oceania, but numbers declined 3 percent in Africa and 4 percent in North America.

Hog numbers are particularly large in South America, compared with prewar, attributable to considerable development in the production of feed grains and to intensification of agriculture. Hog numbers are also

HOOS: Number in Specified Countries, Averages 1936-40, 1946-50, Annual 1952-57

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 2/	1957 2/
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	4,078	5,542	5,498	5,237	4,721	5,425	5,981	5,550
El Salvador	July	559	325	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	213	394	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	July	235	364	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	June	4,965	5,960	5,500	-	7,500	7,750	7,900	8,220
Nicaragua	June	250	250	350	360	235	-	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	48,352	57,563	62,117	51,755	45,114	50,474	55,173	52,207
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	904	1,730	-	1,286	1,340	1,365	1,395	1,440
Dominican Republic	June	842	1,140	1,100	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated Total		61,400	74,500	78,800	68,900	62,700	69,000	74,400	71,400
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	2,849	1,558	2,700	2,850	2,643	2,802	2,933	2,728
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,005	886	1,427	1,382	1,263	1,334	1,441	-
Denmark	Jan.	2,997	2,033	3,229	3,906	4,456	4,806	4,331	4,777
Finland	June 15	485	350	414	434	515	467	435	-
France	Oct. 1 1/	7,034	5,714	7,222	7,154	7,263	7,570	7,729	7,728
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	12,660	6,866	13,603	12,979	12,435	14,525	14,593	14,386
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	532	482	636	587	603	620	621	640
Ireland	June	978	513	719	882	958	799	742	760
Italy	Jan. 1	3,700	3,800	3,512	4,215	4,368	3,746	-	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	148	100	110	96	120	117	-	-
Netherlands	Dec. 1 1/	1,725	1,187	2,100	2,259	2,055	2,331	2,448	2,555
Norway	June 20	393	321	418	379	406	464	507	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	1,206	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	4,944	5,122	6,200	6,300	6,050	-	-	-
Sweden	Apr.	1,292	1,213	1,363	1,351	1,718	1,674	1,600	-
Switzerland	Apr.	915	783	1,007	1,017	950	1,038	1,159	-
United Kingdom	June	4,380	2,309	4,930	5,165	6,251	5,843	5,515	-
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	3,238	4,200	3,990	4,520	4,310	4,731	4,699	3,853
Estimated Total		76,500	59,300	83,600	87,400	90,800	94,400	95,900	96,800
Western Europe		50,500	38,700	55,000	56,900	57,800	59,600	59,600	59,300
Other Europe		26,000	20,600	28,600	30,500	33,000	34,800	36,300	37,500
U.S.S.R.	Jan. 1	32,300	13,000	26,700	-	47,600	51,000	52,100	56,400

ASIA

British Malaya	Dec. 31 1/	746	397	504	525	631	704	-
Burma	Dec. 31 1/	538	323	500	520	540	560	-
China	May	65,300	11/	74,300	11/	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	2,777	-	4,362	4,200	4,450	4,700	-
Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/	1,199	1,165	1,099	2,294	2,021	3,147	-
Japan	Feb. 1	960	301	799	985	1,378	1,450	-
Korea - South	Dec. 31 1/	828	440	335	994	833	825	-
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	4,398	3,300	4,443	4,489	507	938	1,510
Taiwan (Formosa)	Dec. 31 1/	1,803	976	2,262	2,611	2,850	2,871	1,203
Estimated Total		86,400	58,400	95,800	99,700	101,000	103,500	106,300

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	July	3,674	3,000	3,982	-	-	-	3,858
Brazil	Dec. 31 1/	23,224	24,400	27,801	30,916	32,721	35,556	36,606
Chile	June	420	590	700	720	730	733	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	1,572	2,092	-	2,378	1,824	-	1,727
Ecuador	Dec. 31 1/	350	1,070	-	800	683	-	-
Peru	Dec. 31 1/	112/	911	1,268	1,346	1,268	1,351	1,341
Uruguay	May	373	258	259	275	260	-	-
Estimated Total		31,300	33,900	39,000	42,400	44,000	46,800	47,900

AFRICA

Algeria 13/	Nov. 11/	58	140	77	88	83	79	-
Belgian Congo	Dec. 31 1/	162	200	241	261	324	328	344
Federation of Nyasaland and Rhodesias	Dec. 31 1/	209	244	202	228	272	236	216
French Morocco	Dec. 31 1/	64	68	56	64	62	61	-
Madagascar 13/	Dec. 31 1/	578	406	296	248	207	230	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31	70	64	78	77	-	-	-
Angola	Dec. 15/	410	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	24	32	20	16	16	14	15
Union of South Africa	Aug. 13/	1,007	1,290	1,275	1,275	1,275	-	-
Estimated Total		3,400	3,900	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,900	3,800

OCEANIA

Australia	Mar. 31	1,242	1,255	1,022	993	1,197	1,297	1,166
New Zealand	Jan. 31	753	548	566	628	649	661	690
Estimated Total		2,100	2,000	1,800	1,800	2,100	2,200	2,100
Estimated World Total		293,400	245,000	329,400	348,000	352,000	370,800	385,200

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparison and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1951 estimate of 5,498,000 is shown under 1952. 2/Preliminary. 3/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/July. 5/Census or estimate for single year. 6/Official statistics; may be underestimate of actual numbers. 7/September. 8/June. 9/October. 10/Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria and Sinkiang. Excludes outer Mongolia. 11/National estimate of China mainland. Excludes outer Mongolia. 12/Year 1951. 13/Number taxed only. 14/April.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service, March 1957.

at comparatively high levels in Europe and Asia. Numbers in North America are only moderately above prewar and considerably below its potential capacity.

Over the years, hog production has not expanded at the same rate as other livestock enterprises and crops in Australia and New Zealand. In these countries, relatively high feed costs have tended to hold down hog production while there has been a marked expansion in other types of agricultural production. The development of hog production in Africa has been relatively slow because of a shortage of feed grains.

Hog numbers in Canada declined moderately during 1956 but production has been maintained at comparatively high levels. The lower production during 1956 combined with a high domestic demand for pork to force hog prices to high levels during the last quarter of 1956. Canadian hog producers have planned to increase farrowings in 1957 and numbers in December 1957 are expected to equal those of 1955.

In the United States numbers declined from 55.2 million in January 1956 to 52.2 million at the first of 1957 because of low prices for hogs in late 1955 and early 1956. Hog numbers continued to rise in Cuba as a result of a strong demand for pork and lard. The upward trend in Mexican hog numbers continues. Favorable grain production has encouraged expectations of a continued rise in hog numbers next year. Hog numbers have increased moderately in Honduras in the past few years. Numbers were estimated at 625,000 in 1956, compared with 615,000 in 1955, and 525,000 in 1952. Prices of pork are considerably higher than beef prices. Honduras exports a fairly large number of hogs to El Salvador each year.

Hog numbers increased slightly in Western Europe during 1956. Numbers increased in Denmark following a decline caused by restricted feed supplies. Highly satisfactory prices received on the United Kingdom market have encouraged Danish farmers to plan for more farrowings during 1957 than they did for last year. A higher slaughter rate in late 1957 and early 1958 may result. Numbers also rose in the United Kingdom, where lower prices in 1955 had resulted in a reduction in farrowings. There were also moderate gains in Greece, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The slight gain in Ireland during 1956 is expected to continue, as expected farrowings are up again this year.

Hog numbers in Switzerland reached a new high in 1956 and, from present indications, seem likely to remain at the same level or increase slightly during 1957. Restrictions on slaughter hog imports have kept slaughter from increasing rapidly, and a rising per capita consumption of pork has kept the demand for hogs steady.

West German hog numbers declined during 1956, and are expected to remain steady or show a slight increase during 1957. Numbers also declined in Austria and Yugoslavia.

Numbers in Belgium and France were steady at a relatively high level. Although there is a surplus of pork in France at present, French farmers are not expected to reduce their pork production during 1957.

Reports from the Eastern European area indicate a general increase in hog numbers in recent years, and this increase probably continued in 1956. Poland and East Germany are the largest producers in the area, but Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Rumania probably have more hogs each year than any country in Western Europe, except West Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. There are indications that hog numbers will drop in East Germany and Hungary during 1957.

The U.S.S.R. published an estimate of 56.4 million hogs in the Soviet Union in October 1956, which is 8 percent over the 1955 estimate and 10 percent above that for 1953. There has been considerable effort to expand hog production in the Soviet Union in recent years. The feed grain harvest of 1956 was reported to be unusually large and to contain an increased percentage of corn. This would indicate a further increase in hog production in 1957.

Numbers in Asia increased in most countries, China being an exception. Hog numbers there were unofficially reported to have declined in 1956. A substantial increase in Indonesia was due to settled conditions in the farming areas following the recent civil war. India is attempting to increase hog production, but is hampered by a shortage of grain. Hog numbers in Japan have shown a steady rise since the end of World War II, and a further increase in 1956 may be expected.

Hog numbers in Brazil, the most important hog producer in South America, have climbed steadily since before World War II. Present low consumption is due to the lower yield of most of Brazil's hogs. Sharp demand for pork products and increased grain production are expected to raise hog production further.

The Argentine census of July 1956 reported 3.9 million hogs, only slightly less than the number reported in the 1952 census.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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